with the Auditors Compt

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Rural District Council of Godstone.

1896.

OXTED.

PRINTED BY J. B. LOCK, 2, STATION ROAD WEST.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

OF THE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GODSTONE,

1896.

To the Chairman and Members of the Godstone Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the past year upon the healthfulness of the District over which I have the honour to act as your Medical Officer of Health, the perusal of which, I venture to think, will be repaid with gratifying interest in that it reveals a continuation of the progressive improvement noted on previous occasions, and which has resulted from the various measures taken for its benefit.

As regards the weather, the year was remarkable for th irregular distribution of Rainfall and slight variability of tempe rature during the different seasons. RAINFALL, &c.

January and February were unsually warm and dry, with very little sun or wind, and Rainfall one-third below the average.

March was very warm and wet, with a Rainfall of 3·57 in. falling in 23 days, followed by April and May, which were the driest months on record at this Station.

June was very wet, but warm with severe thunder-storms on 4th and 24th.

July was warm and very dry, and August a cold month for the time of year, during which the temperature fell below 50 deg. on nineteen nights.

September was the wettest ever recorded at this Station, with numerous thunderstorms and heavy gales, resulting in a fall of 7·47 in. of rain.

October was cold and wet, but November was dry, and December warm and wet with much fog.

The total Rainfall for the year amounted to 30.08 in., which is 2·33 in. above the average for the last ten years, producing however only 175 wet days, which were only five more than the average during the same period.

The following Tables kindly furnished to me by Mr. Moffat of the Priory Gardens, Nutfield, give the various readings in detail.

TABLE showing the Total Rainfall for the previous ten years.

N.B.—A wet day means one upon which ·01 or more of rain has fallen.

Year.	Total Depth.	Number of Wet Days.
1886	31·27	190
1887	21·82	137
1888	28·97	171
1889	25·91	171
1890	26·13	176
1891	33·10	175
1892	27·49	162
1893	22·27	153
1894	34·09	202
1895	26·54	167
	277·59	1,704

Yielding an average of 27·75 inches and 170·4 wet days.

REGISTER OF RAINFALL IN 1896.

Kept at NUTFIELD PRIORY, in the County of Surrey, by J. MOFFAT.

Time of Observation, 9 *a.m.*

RAIN GAUGE:—

Diameter ... ... 8 inches.

Height of top above Ground ... ... 1 ft. 2 in.

" " Sea Level ... ... 468 ft.

Date.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Date.
	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	
1	·03	...	·05	·03	...	...	·01	...	1·43	...	·09	·09	1
2	...	...	·26	...	...	·02	...	...	·14	·03	·09	·48	2
3	·01	...	...	...	1	...	·11	·01	·13	·04	...	·07	3
4	...	...	·07	·35	...	·11	...	...	·71	·35	...	·59	4
5	...	...	·02	...	...	...	...	...	·02	·06	...	·24	5
6	...	...	·01	·02	...	·10	...	...	·01	1·08	...	·06	6
7	...	...	·48	...	...	·28	...	..	...	·16	.58	...	7
8	...	·09	...	...	...	...	...	·25	·12	·11	·04	·03	8
9	...	·01	23	...	...	·45	...	·17	·33	·11	...	·05	9
10	...	·01	·01	·03	...	1	...	·18	·55	...	...	·13	10
11	·01	...	·08	·07	...	...	...	...	·25	...	...	·02	11
12	·04	·04	...	·10	...	...	...	...	·72	67	...	·15	12
13	·10	...	...	·10	...	...	...	·13	·61	·56	·14	·42	13
14	·11	...	·03	·09	...	...	...	·03	·03	·27	·29	·06	14
15	·09	...	·05	...	...	...	·12	...	·16	·37	·11	·31	15
16	...	...	·03	·08	...	...	.30	...	·01	·23	·02	...	16
17	...	...	·89	...	...	·16	...	·11	·21	·05	...	...	17
18	...	...	·24	...	...	...	...	·10	·13	·02	·03	...	18
10	·01	07	...	...	...	...	...	.06	·03	·12	·04	...	19
20	...	·04	.52	...	·07	...	...	...	·05	·01	...	†·06	20
21	...	·04	·07	...	·15	...	...	·42	·41	...	...	...	21
22	...	...	...	...	·03	...	...	...	·22	...	‡·01	...	22
23	·02	...	·09	...	...	...	...	·29	...	...	...	...	23
24	·14	...	...	...	...	·90	...	...	·83	·30	...	·43	24
25	·16	...	·12	·01	...	·03	...	·21	·19	·04	...	...	25
26	...	...	·12	...	...	...	·35	·11	·05	·26	...	·13	26
27	·17	...	·06	...	...	...	...	...	·11	...	·06	·17	27
28	...	·03	·04	·02	...	...	...	...	·01	...	...	·17	28
29	...	·03	08	...	...	...	·08	...	·01	...	...	·01	29
30	‡·01	...	...	...	...	·03	·20	·05	...	·03	...	·09	30
31	...	...	·02	...	...	...	...	·13	...	...	...	·11	31
Totals	·90	.36	3·57	90	·25	3·08	1·17	2·44	7.47	4.87	1·50	3·57	
Total from Jan. 1	...	1·26	4·83	5·73	5·98	9·06	10·23	12·67	20·14	25·01	26·61	30·08	

† *Snow.* ‡ *Frost.*

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29261399

1896.

The following Table shows the fall for the year, and the average temperature also.

Month.	Total Depth.	Greatest fall in 24 hours.		No. of wet days.	Temperature.		
		Depth.	Date.		Max.	Min.	Mean.
Jan. ...	·90	·17	27th	13	50	30	40
Feb. ...	·36	·09	8th	9	57	23	40
March ...	3·57	·89	17th	23	71	31	51
April ...	·90	·35	4th	11	66	33	49·5
May ...	·25	·15	21st	3	79	30	54·5
June ...	3·08	1·	11th	10	83	47	65
July ...	1·17	·35	26th	7	89	47	68
Aug. ...	2·44	·42	21st	16	73	43	59
Sept. ...	7·47	1·43	1st	28	69	40	54·5
Oct. ...	4·87	1·08	6th	21	63	30	46·5
Nov. ...	1·50	·58	7th	12	50	25	37·5
Dec. ...	3·57	·59	4th	22	50	23	36·5
Total ...	30·08			175			

Absolute Maximum 87″ on July 21st.
Absolute Minimum 21″ on Feb. 19th.
Mean Temperature of Year 46″.
Extreme range, 66″.

STATISTICS, AREA, AND POPULATION.

The total Area of the district extends to 53,183 acres having a Population, according to the Census of 1891, of 22,127 persons, and estimated up to the end of 1896 as 23,603, distributed amongst 15 Parishes or "localities" as indicated in the following Tables:—

TABLE I.

Localities.	Population, Census 1891.	Population estimated for 1896.	Acres.	Persons per acre.	Births. M.	Births. F.	Rate per 1000 Births.	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 Pop.
Blechingley	1,882	2,025	5,620	·36	25	30	27·16	13	6·41
Caterham...	4,551	4,901	2,438	3·20	80	66	29·79	48	9·79
Chelsham...	440	459	3,356	·13	4	7	23·96	6	13·07
Crowhurst...	246	251	2,119	·11	3	1	15·93	1	3·98
Farleigh ...	110	116	1,051	·10	...	1	8·62	2	17·24
Godstone ...	2,478	2,619	6,830	·38	29	40	26·[illegible]1	29	11·07
Horne ...	708	760	4,593	·15	10	8	23·68	9	11·84
Limpsfield..	1,469	1,528	4,673	·32	13	10	15·05	20	13·08
Lingfield ...	3,204	3,315	9,239	·35	40	38	23·52	40	12·06
Oxted ...	1,499	1,698	3,659	·46	25	29	31·82	15	8·83
Tandridge..	589	611	3,928	·15	6	8	22·91	4	6·54
Tatsfield ...	380	394	1,303	·30	7	4	27·91	8	20·30
Titsey ...	225	236	1,988	·11	2	2	16·94	1	4·23
Warlingham	1,488	1,616	1,703	·94	27	29	34·65	14	8·68
Woldingham	101	158	683	·23	1	2	12·65	4	25·31
	19,380	20,687			272	275		214	
Asylum ...	2,118	2,127						116	
Barracks ...	629	776						3	
Charing Cross Home		11							
Caxton Home		2						2	
Total ...	22,127	23,603	53,183	·44	547		26·4	335	10·34

Deducting from the above total of Population that of the Metropolitan Asylum and the Barracks, situated at Caterham, together with that of the two Convalesent Homes at Limpsfield, there remains a balance of 20,687 persons for the District.

For the purpose of this Report, the Population of each "locality" is estimated by deducting the deaths from the

A.—TABLE of Deaths during the Year 1896, in the Godstone Rural District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities (Columns for Population and Births are in Table B).	Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages.								Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths of children under 5 years of age.																					
									1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
													Fevers.																	
a	At all ages b	Under 1 year c	1 and under 5 d	5 and under 15 e	15 and under 25 f	25 and under 65 g	65 and upwards. h	(i)	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Typhus	Enteric or typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhœa & dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis	Bronchitis, pneumonia and pleurisy	Heart disease	Influenza	Injuries	All other diseases	Totals
Asylum	116				3	54	59	Under 5																					56	116
								5 upwards																						
Barracks	3	1			2			Under 5																7	14	39			56	116
								5 upwards		1																			1	1
Caxton Home ...	2					2		Under 5																		1				2
								5 upwards																						
Cottage Hospital, Caterham ...	1					1		Under 5																		1	1			2
								5 upwards																						
Blechingley ...	13	2		1	2	3	5	Under 5											1						1				1	1
								5 upwards			1																			2
Caterham	47	15	4			13	15	Under 5		1		1								1		3		1	1	3			5	11
								5 upwards																5	5				8	19
Chelsham	6	1	1		1	1	2	Under 5															1	3	3	6			15	28
								5 upwards																	1					1
Crowhurst ...	1						1	Under 5						1											1	1	1		1	5
								5 upwards																						
Farleigh	2	1					1	Under 5																					1	1
								5 upwards																					1	1
Godstone	29	3		2	1	9	14	Under 5																					1	1
								5 upwards																	1				2	3
Horne	9				1	6	2	Under 5																2	3	8			13	26
								5 upwards																						
Limpsfield ...	20	4	1	1	2	3	9	Under 5											1					1	1	1			5	9
								5 upwards																1	1				2	5
Lingfield	40	9	3		2	14	12	Under 5													2			2		1			12	15
								5 upwards																	4				5	11
Oxted	15	3		1		3	8	Under 5													1			5	3	4			17	29
								5 upwards			1																		2	3
Tandridge ...	4	1				1	2	Under 5																1	1		1		8	12
								5 upwards																					1	1
Tatsfield	8	4	1			2	1	Under 5																					3	3
								5 upwards																1	2				2	5
Titsey	1						1	Under 5																	2				1	3
								5 upwards																						
Warlingham ...	14	1	3			7	3	Under 5																		1				1
								5 upwards																	3				1	4
Woldingham ...	4				1	2	1	Under 5																1	3	1			5	10
								5 upwards																1		1			2	4
Totals ...	335	45	13	5	15	121	136	Under 5		1		1						1	1		3		2	18					25	56
								5 upwards		1	2			1								1	24	32	68	3	1	1	146	279
The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.																														
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.	2					1	1	Under 5																	1			1		2
								5 upwards																						

SUMMARY OF THE REPORTS OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1896.

PARISH.	Inspections and re-inspections.	Preliminary Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Nuisances abated under the Public Health Act, 1875.										Public Health (water) Act, 1878.			Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.		
				Defective W.C.'s, S.E.C.'s, Privies, and Cesspools.	Defective Drains.	Houses cleansed.	Ashbins and Privies provided.	Overcrowding.	Offensive accumulations.	Offensive Ditches.	Nuisances from keeping animals.	Houses disinfected.	Total.	Samples of Water taken.	Notices.	Houses supplied.	Notices.	Houses made fit for habitation.	Houses closed.
*a*Blechingley ...	273	19	49	3	8	2	1	2	14	1		17	48	4					
*b*Caterham	441	63	10	12	43	4	38	6	4		4	7	118	1	1	1			
Chelsham	22	2	1		1				1				2						
Crowhurst	30	1		1	1					1			3	2	1	1	1	1	
Farleigh	3												0						
Godstone	147	14	3	15	7			1	3	2	4	5	37	14	12	13			
Horne	19	2	1	1	2					1			4	2					
Limpsfield	160	19	3	7	12	2			4	3	2	2	32	3					
Lingfield	227	28	8	19	13	2		3	6	1	1	8	53	19	21	21			
*c*Oxted	151	20	3	11	11	1	2		5	1	1	5	37				1	3	
*d*Tandridge	22	1		1	1				1			1	4	2			2	2	
Tatsfield	41	3		2			1		1				4	5			1	1	
Titsey	16	1		1								2	3						
Warlingham ...	111	7	2	7	6		1		3		1	1	19						
Woldingham ...	10	1	1	1				1					2						
Totals for District ...	1673	181	81	81	105	11	43	13	42	10	13	48	366	52	35	36	5	7	

a 134 houses connected with main sewer.
b Scavenging of house refuse by contract.
c Scavenging of house refuse in Station Road by contract.
d Sewer has been laid through village and 13 houses connected.

births in each year, and adding the difference to the estimated Population of the previous year, similarly obtained, and so in like manner from the Census of 1891; a method which may not be strictly accurate, but nevertheless sufficient.

The total number of Births registered during the year was 547, composed of 272 males and 275 females, which were 26 less than those of last year, producing an annual rate of 26·44, and below the average of the preceding three years.

The total number of Deaths registered was 335, which, after deducting 121 as having occurred in the Asylum, Barracks, and Caxton Home, leaves a balance of 214 for the District, producing a rate of 10·34 per 1000 of Population, which is well below the average of the previous three years.

The number of deaths of Infants under one year of age was 45, which, after deducting one as having occurred in the Barracks, gives a rate of 80 per 1000 Births, and is well below the average of the previous three years.

The deaths due to Phthisis amounted to 19, which shew a rate of ·9 per 1000, and well below the average of the previous three years; whilst those due to Respiratory Diseases numbered 36, giving a rate af 1·7 per 1000, also below the average.

The number of deaths due to the diseases usually called Zymotic amounted to 10, which give a rate of ·4 per 1000, and is much below the average of the previous three years.

Of the total number of deaths 54·6 per cent. were amongst those of 65 years of age and upwards.

The following Tables shew the statistics for the year, together with one summarizing those of the previous three years with their average, by which comparison may be readily drawn, and from which it will be seen that the past year was below the average on all points, particularly as regards the general death rate, those under fifteen, and those due to Zymotic Diseases.

(For Tables A and B see preceding pages).

TABLE II.

Statistics for previous Three Years, with Average.

Years.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Deaths of Infants under one year to 1,000 Births.	1—15	15—16	65 and upwards.	Principal Zymotic Diseases.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa.	Phthisis.	Respiratory Diseases.
1893	26·26	12·36	88	1·8	4·2	4·3	2·07	0·2	0·06	0·9	0·3	0·2	1·03	1·2
1894	29.44	11·57	91	1·1	3·9	3·7	0·30	0·06	0·06	0·12	0·06	...	1·38	1·92
1895	28·37	11·29	90	·9	7·7	6·4	·34	...	0·9	·14	·09	·18	·6	1·4
Aver.	28·02	11·74	89	1·2	5·2	4·8	·90	·08	·34	·38	·15	·12	1·03	1·50
1896	26·44	10·34	80	·8	3·6	3·7	·4	·04	·04	·08	·08	·1	·9	1·7

TABLE III.

Statistics for period of Five Years during which the District previously divided has been one.

Years.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Deaths of Infants under one year to 1,000 births.	1—15	15—65	65 and upwards.	Principal Zymotic Diseases.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa.	Phthisis.	Respiratory Diseases.
1892	26·5	13·2	119	2·6	6·7	5·3	0·87	0·12	...	...	0·52	0·23	1·69	3·15
1893	26·26	12·36	88	1·8	4·2	4·3	2·07	0·2	0·06	0·9	0·3	0·2	1·03	1·2
1894	29·44	11·57	91	1·1	3·9	3·7	0·30	0·06	0·06	0·12	0·06	...	1·38	1·92
1895†	28·37	11·29	90	·9	7·7	6·4	·34	...	·09	·14	·09	·18	·6	1·4
1896†	26·44	10·34	80	·8	3·6	3·7	·4	·04	·04	·08	·08	·1	·9	1·7

† Includes Lingfield.

From which it will be seen that there has been a steady diminution of the general death rate, as also of those under fifteen, which are most readily influenced by improved sanitation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT, 1889.

The following Table gives the number of cases of Infectious Disease scheduled under this Act which have been notified during the past year, and the localities in which they have occurred, by which it will be seen that 103 cases in all have been certified as occurring in 69 houses, distributed amongst 11 localities. Seven terminated fatally, which is at the rate of 6·69 per cent. of cases certified. Scarlatina was the disease which was most prevalent, numbering 63 cases, which, however, were 27 less than last year; and Diphtheria next, which was also less than those certified during the same period.

Eight cases of Enteric Fever were certified (which, with two exceptions, were contracted outside the District), two of small-pox and ten of Erysipelas.

TABLE IV.

Showing cases of Infectious Diseases notified under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889.

Localities.	No. of Houses.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric.	Erysipelas.	Smallpox	Puerperal	Total	Deaths.				Total.
									Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric.	Erysipelas.	
Blechingley	22	34	4		5	2		45		1		1	2
Caterham ...	5	4	2					6	1	1			2
Chelsham ...	1			1				1			1		1
Godstone ...	4	6						6					
Horne ...	1			1				1					
Limpsfield ...	4			2	2			4				1	1
Lingfield ...	16	10	6	1	3		1	21					
Oxted ...	7	6	3					9		1			1
Tatsfield ...	3	2	1	1				4					
Titsey ...	1		1					1					
Warlingham	5	1	2	2				5					
Total ...	69	63	19	8	10	2	1	103	1	3	1	2	7

Two cases of Smallpox occurred, and were treated in the Isolation Hospital attached to the Workhouse, being man and wife. They had been travelling on the road from Hastings, with a view to finding employment in the Railway Extension Works at Merstham, and had stopped at various places *en route*. The man, not feeling well, called at my house for advice, when he was found to be suffering from Smallpox, with the eruption fully developed. He was at once taken to the Workhouse, and placed in the Isolation Hospital, together with his wife, who subsequently developed the disease six days after admission. Immediate steps were taken with a view to preventing any spread of the infection, and a number of the inmates were vaccinated. Having had a similar occurrence so recently as three years ago, the majority had been successfully vaccinated at that time, and were consequently well protected, so that it was only necessary to perform the operation on those admitted subsequently, which amounted to thirty-one. No further cases occurred.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES. SMALL POX.

The introduction of Smallpox so recently as in 1893, and again last year, suggests an examination into the condition of the District generally as regards Vaccination, and the following Table shews the result of my inquiries on that point, having been kindly favoured with the returns for the last ten years by the Vaccination Officer, Mr. Snelgrove.

VACCINATION RETURNS.

(For Table see next page.)

Vaccination Returns for last Ten Years, showing per centage of Births not accounted for.

Year.	Births.	Successfully Vaccinated.	Insusceptible of Vaccination.	Died Unvaccinated.	Vaccination postponed.	Remaining.	Children not finally accounted for, including cases postponed per cent. of births.
1886	459	404	1	32	5	17	4·7
1887	463	396		34	8	25	7·1
1888	448	383	2	37	3	23	5·8
188	425	358	1	27		39	9·1
1890	446	400		22	3	21	5·3
1891	432	373		28	6	25	5·7
18 2	458	400		29	3	26	6·3
1893	431	36		23	5	34	9·
1894	490	401	1	31	9	48	11·6
1895	470	376		34	4	56	12·7

From the above Table it will be noticed that there has been a steady though slight increase in the per centage of those children not finally accounted for, including cases postponed, since 1892. This may be due to indifference engendered by the uncertainty as to the conclusions which would be arrived at by the Commission upon Vaccination, and awaited in their long-looked-for Report as regards conscientious objectors and the application of compulsory powers. The last Report of the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board, however, shows that the District is the third best vaccinated one in the county, and that the principal sources of danger to us from its inefficiency amongst our neighbours are the Croydon and East

Grinstead Unions, whose percentages are 20·6 and 20·1 respectively.

One death was registered as due to Measles, that of an infant aged seventeen months, which was complicated with Pneumonia, and ultimately died in convulsions. This case occurred at Caterham, but not being one of those diseases specified in the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889, it was not brought to my notice except by means of the Registrar's certificate of death. MEASLES.

Although cases occurred in other parts of the district, in no instance did it assume epidemic form.

One death was registered as due to Scarlatina at Caterham. SCARLATINA.

This disease occurred in epidemic form at Blechingley, thirty-four cases having been notified in that locality, where also the one that proved fatal probably contracted it, although living at Caterham. Cases occurred also in Lingfield and Godstone, amounting to sixty-three for the whole district, but of an exceedingly mild type, being scarcely recognised in some instances, until the existence of one suffering from a marked eruption led to a doctor being consulted, and thereby revealed the presence of others in the same family in different stages of the disease.

Three deaths were registered as due to Diphtheria, which, as in previous years, ranked next to Scarlatina in prevalence. DIPHTHERIA.

Nineteen cases were notified as occurring in seven localities, but in no case did it assume epidemic form. Lingfield had the greatest number, and in the same part of the parish in which it was very prevalent three years ago.

In one instance only was the presence of the true diphtheria baccillus ascertained by bacteriological examination of material obtained from the affected throat.

The arrangements which had been made by the Medical Department of the Local Government Board, with reference to the examination of material from the throats of doubtful cases of diphtheria, on behalf of Medical Officers of Health, and to which allusion was made in my report of last year, have, I regret to say, been since abandoned, in consequence of their not having

been sufficiently availed of to justify their continuance; so that these examinations can now only be obtained privately and upon payment of a fee. This was done in the case alluded to above.

ENTERIC FEVER.

One death was registered as due to Enteric Fever, amongst eight cases thus notified, all of which, with two exceptions, were contracted outside the district.

ERYSIPELAS.

Two deaths were certified as due to Erysipelas, both being in children under five years of age.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Three deaths were registered as due to Whooping Cough and its complications—two in Lingfield and one in Oxted.

DIARRHŒA.

Three deaths were registered as due to Diarrhœa, in children aged one, four, and seven months respectively, and all in Caterham, due probably to improper feeding.

INFLUENZA.

Three deaths were registered as due to Influenza, one each in Oxted, Lingfield, and the Caxton Home, although at no time so prevalent as in former years.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL PROVISION.

Notwithstanding the absence of any provision for the proper isolation of cases of infectious disease, in only one locality did any such spread of infection occur as to be entitled "epidemic," and that at Blechingley, in the case of Scarlatina; which, however, had the effect of bringing the question of the provision of an Isolation Hospital forcibly to the front, with the result that a contract was entered into for the purchase and erection of a temporary iron building, to contain ten beds in four separate wards, which will enable two kinds of infectious diseases to be accommodated. This is now in process of erection, and when complete will be of considerable benefit, although not of such capacity as the size and population of the district would dictate.

In the instance above-mentioned, a resolution previously accepted by the Council, authorising me to engage and convert a cottage into a temporary hospital, was acted upon, which did good service, but was most expensive.

Visits were made in all cases, and steps taken to effect isolation as far as circumstances would allow, and upon the termination of the illness fumigation of the rooms with sulphur dioxide was carried out; notices to cleanse and disinfect served upon

the owners, and clothing and bedding destroyed where considered advisable. This latter proceeding could be avoided by the provision of a suitable steam disinfector, and much expense saved, now incurred in the way of replacing those articles which had been destroyed.

Passing on to a detailed statement as to each locality, I have to report as follows :

BLECHINGLEY.—Population, 2,025 ; Births, 55 ; Deaths, 13 ; giving rates per 1,000 of 27·16 for the former, and 6·41 for the latter. BLECHINGLEY.

The death rate is 4·67 per 1,000 less than last year, and is worthy of notice in that it is coincident with the establishment of a complete system of drainage.

Scarlatina, commonly called Scarlet Fever, occurred in epidemic form during the autumn, having first appeared amongst the children attending the Infant's School, and then affecting the older children of the different families of which they were members. It is not always possible to trace each link in the chain of infection whereby the disease is at first introduced amongst children attending an elementary school ; but there is little doubt that in this instance it extended from the Reigate district, where it extensively prevailed during the month of August. SCARLATINA.

The first case notified in this locality fell ill on September 9th, and the first amongst children attending the School was on September 17th, followed by others on the 18th and 19th, in such numbers as to suggest the advisability of at once closing the school, which was done on September 23rd, by which time thirteen children had become affected in eight families.

The disease being of an exceedingly mild character, many cases were overlooked, until discovered by other members of the family falling ill subsequently, and parents were placed on their guard by the general alarm that was created. Thirty-one cases in all were notified in connection with this outbreak, and

the school was closed from September 23rd to Oct. 14th for which the usual certificate was given.

DIPHTHERIA.

Four isolated cases of Diphtheria occurred, having no connection with each other, one of which proved fatal, and appeared to have been contracted outside the district.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

These works having been completed, of which a full description was given in my Report of last year, connections with the various houses within 100 ft. of the sewers have been effected. Two additional branch sewers have been laid, one in order to connect the cottages at Whitepost more readily, and the other to enable the houses at the corner of Blechingley Lane to communicate with the main sewer extending across Town Meadow. The system is now in full work, and producing a fairly satisfactory effluent, as evidenced by its clearness and the absence of smell and of any deposit at the surface where it enters the brook.

The drainage from 134 houses is thus being dealt with.

SCAVENGING.

The responsibility of scavenging and removal of house refuse rests with the owners; but in the case of cottages without gardens difficulties arise both as regards place of deposit and means of doing the work, so that accumulations are allowed to take place, and become a source of danger to the public health. Neither is the process by which such owners can be prompted to act up to their responsibilities so quickly effectual as to readily remove this danger, as it is only by serving of notices under the Public Health Act, 1875, and subsequent legal proceedings in the event of non-compliance, by which ultimate success can be attained, involving considerable delay.

An implied duty, under these circumstances, devolves upon the Council to undertake or contract for the work being done, and this has been recognised in the case of Station Road, Oxted, and Caterham. The cottages situated at the lower end of Blechingley called Middle Row, and others situated at the corner of Blechingley Lane, in The Square, and The Mint, are eminently suitable for such treatment, as nuisances arising from such accumulations in their respective curtilages are of daily occurrence. I would recommend, therefore, that a contract be entered into for the work being done weekly as regards this

particular area in a similar manner to that above alluded to as being in vogue at Oxted, and as being an equal measure of justice.

Forty-eight nuisances have been abated by proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1875, during the past year, of which fourteen had reference to the accumulations of house refuse above alluded to. This is the largest number dealt with in any one locality in the district under that heading, which still further emphasises the desirability of the work being undertaken by the Council. NUISANCES.

CATERHAM.—Population 4,901; Births, 146; Deaths, 48; giving rates per 1,000 of 29·79 for the former, and 9·79 for the latter. CATERHAM.

Six certificates only under this Act were received during the past year, viz., four of Scarlatina and two of Diphtheria, which includes a case whose cause of death was certified to be due to Membranous Croup. NOTIFICATION ACT, 1889.

Excluding the Barracks, where several cases of Scarlatina, commonly called Scarlet Fever occurred, and which are outside the jurisdiction of your Council, there was a marked freedom from this disease, only four cases having been certified, three of which had visited known infected areas a few days before falling ill, and the other shortly after her arrival at a Holiday Home from London. SCARLATINA.

The cases of Diphtheria, including that considered to be Membranous Croup, were associated with local defects in sanitation which have been remedied. DIPHTHERIA.

An inquiry was held, at the instigation of the County Council, with reference to an application to have this locality constituted an Urban District, at which it was sought to be shown by the Promotors that one ground for such application being granted was that the sanitation of Caterham had been neglected in the past, and would be better attended to in the future under such an arrangement as they asked for. The result of the inquiry, however, was that the promoters had failed to prove their case, and the evidence of neglect in attending to the sanitary requirements during the past was insufficient. URBAN POWERS.

With regard to this, it is as well to recall the fact that on January 19th, 1894, a Parochial Committee was appointed, to which the then Sanitary Authority delegated powers to deal with certain items of sanitation, and to which allusion had been made by me in previous Reports, viz., scavenging and the emptying of cesspools, as requiring urgent attention.

The Committee met in all seven times, and at their request special reports upon these particular points were prepared and presented, which, after describing the mode of emptying cesspools and removal of house refuse then in vogue, concluded with a recommendation that the Committee should "petition the then Sanitary Authority to provide two sanitary tumbler carts, and to advertise for tenders to contract for the efficient emptying of cesspools and the conveyance of their contents to some suitable locality where they could be utilised without causing a nuisance," and also "for the removal of house refuse."

The Committee, however, merely adopted the latter, and declined to entertain the former and equally importaint recommendation; so that the neglect of furthering the interests of the inhabitants in those matters of sanitation when opportunity arose rested with them, inasmuch as they were specially appointed for the purpose, and were endowed with sufficient power.

That this matter of emptying cesspools in some better way than now in vogue is an urgent one is indicated by the fact of the Local Government Board, after having instructed one of their Inspectors, Dr. Bruce Low, to visit and report upon the question, decided to hold an enquiry as to whether an order should be issued under Sec. 42 of the Public Health Act, 1875, requiring the work to be done by your Council.

This enquiry was duly held on October 22nd, by Dr. Sweeting, at which a resolution was submitted on behalf of the Parish Council (which had superseded the Parochial Committee in consequence of the passing of the Local Government Act, 1894), to the effect that they would undertake the work and thereby avoid the order being issued.

This resolution, however, had not been arrived at until a report by Mr. Baldwin Latham, whom they consulted, had been presented to them condemning the present method as being unsatisfactory.

The plan about to be adopted must of necessity be an expensive one; and the question whether an alternative method by means of a properly devised Sewage Scheme will not be cheaper and more efficient will sooner or later arise.

No case of infectious disease falling under the Notification Act, 1889, occurred at this Institution during the past year, and the work of relaying the drains is being carried out. THE ASYLUM.

Several cases of Scarlatina, commonly called Scarlet Fever, have occurred amongst the soldiers quartered at these Barracks, one of which terminated fatally. THE BARRACKS.

The work of Scavenging and removal of house refuse is still being done by contract, and with satisfaction. SCAVENGING, &c.

One hundred and eighteen nuisances have been abated in this locality by proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1875, during the past year. NUISANCES.

CHELSHAM.—Population, 450; Births, 11; Deaths, 6; giving rates per 1,000 of 23·96 for the former and 13·07 for the latter. CHELSHAM.

One case of Enteric Fever was certified as occurring in this locality, the symptoms of which supervened during convalescence from Influenza, and were doubtless due to the insanitary condition of the house, one special item of which was that the supply of drinking water was derived from a rain-water cistern which was in direct communication with two closets. This has been remedied, and a fresh supply of water provided. NOTIFICATION ACT, 1889.

The case unfortunately terminated fatally.

Two nuisances have been abated by proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1875, in this locality during the past year. NUISANCES.

CROWHURST.—Population, 251; Births, 4; Deaths, 1; giving rates per 1,000 of 15·93 for the former, and 3·98 for the latter. CROWHURST.

No cases of notifiable disease occurred in this locality during the past year.

Housing of the Working Classes Act.

Proceedings were taken under this Act with reference to Whitehall Cottage which upon inspection proved to be unfit for habitation until certain specified repairs had been effected, which have now been done.

Nuisances.

Three nuisances have been abated by proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1875, in this locality during the past year.

Farleigh.

FARLEIGH.—Population, 116; Births, 1; Deaths, 2; giving rates per 1,000 of 8·62 for the former, and 17·24 for the latter.

No cases of notifiable disease occurred in this locality during the past year.

Godstone.

GODSTONE.—Population, 2,619; Births, 69; Deaths, 29; giving rates per 1,000 of 26·31 for the former, and 11·07 for the latter.

Notification Act.

Six cases of Scarlatina, commonly called Scarlet Fever, were certified as occurring in this locality in four separate houses. Three cases, members of one family, developed the disease two days after returning home from Margate; and one other case, similarly, after having returned from Bournemouth, so were doubtless contracted outside the district.

The source of infection in the remaining cases was not clearly defined.

Measles.

Measles occurred in epidemic form amongst the children attending the Elementary Schools and assumed such proportions that the Managers, acting upon my advice, closed them on March 26th, but were re-opened on April 20th, and a certificate given to that effect.

Drainage.

Complaints still continue to be received of the offensive condition of the Brook, arising from the same being polluted by the effluent from the tank on the Green, the contents of which have not been sufficiently purified before entering it.

The matter has been the subject of many communications

between your Council and the Parish Council, from which it would appear that the latter body fail to recognise their duty to the public on this question, and by their interposition of various objections to every scheme that has been proposed to remedy the nuisance, have merely caused delay instead of assistance in providing relief.

I would impress upon your Council the urgency of the matter and the desirability of it being dealt with during the ensuing year.

Thirty-seven nuisances have been abated by proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1875, in this locality during the past year. NUISANCES.

HORNE.—Population, 760; Births, 18; Deaths, 9; giving rate per 1,000 of 23·68 for the former, and 11·84 for the latter. HORNE.

One case was certified under this Act in this locality, viz., of Enteric Fever, which was removed from Reigate, and had been contracted outside the district. NOTIFICATION ACT.

Four nuisances have been abated by proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1875, in this locality during the past year. NUISANCES.

LIMPSFIELD.—Population, 1528; Births, 23; Deaths, 20; giving rates per 1,000 of 15·05 for the former, and 13·08 for the latter. LIMPSFIELD.

Four cases of notifiable disease were certified under this Act, viz., two of Enteric Fever, and two of Erysipelas; one of the latter terminating fatally. NOTIFICATION ACT, 1889.

One case of this disease occurred early in the year, and was probably contracted outside the district, as also the second case, which was one of the inmates of the Charing Cross Convalescent Home who had been sent down to that Institution from London as convalescent, and suffered a relapse. ENTERIC FEVER.

The two cases of Erysipelas both occurred at Moorhouse Cottages, and were due to local defects of sanitation, which have been remedied. ERYSIPELAS.

DRAINAGE.

The provision of a suitable scheme of drainage has been the subject of much thought and consideration, and in consequence of several communications from the Local Government Board, urging the matter upon the attention of your Council, a Committee was appointed to obtain information as to the various methods of sewage disposal now in vogue in other places, with a view to propounding one for Limpsfield in conjunction with Oxted, the result being that some valuable knowledge has been gained on the subject.

Several places where such works have been established were visited by Members of that Committee, and reported upon, amongst which the system of treatment in use at Exeter created the most favourable impression. Acting upon instructions, I visited these works on December 8th, and after a close inspection into all the details of the method adopted there, made a Report.

The system is styled that of the "Septic Tank," and the principle and the method by which it is carried out are thus described :—

"First, as to the principle upon which this system is devised.

"The principle, briefly, is a biological one, and arrives at the purification of the sewage by favouring the development of those natural processes by which nature itself utilizes organic matter, and would, if uninterfered with, completely appropriate. It is now known that the decomposition of organic matter is brought about by the successive development and lives of micro-organisms, which thrive under varying conditions, but of which there are two markedly characterisic, viz., that some will thrive and multiply only in the absence of light and air, and others who require both light and air for their development, forming, as it were, a complement to the former, and thus completing the destruction commenced by them. These micro-organisms being universal, are of course present in sewage, and the object, therefore, is to favour their growth and multiplication, and by their activity to effect its purification.

"Secondly, the method by which these principles are carried out consists of a tank, built down into the ground, and so constructed as to exclude air and light, which receives the sewage and detains it to enable the first-mentioned class of micro-

organisms to thrive and multiply; and filter beds of porous material, to which the sewage is conducted after leaving the tank, where the other light and air living micro-organisms are enabled to grow, and by their life-processes complete the change. The resulting effluent is then fit to be discharged into the adjoining river.

"The system deals with the sewage from a population of 1,500 persons, or about 53,800 gallons per day.

"The tank measures 64 ft. by 18 ft., of varying depth, from 7 ft. to 10 ft., and is provided with a small manhole outside, with grating across the flow of sewage to prevent articles of rubbish from entering, but which allows all small particles of sewage and solids in suspension to pass freely in.

"Within the tank, and a few feet from the inlet, which enters close to the bottom, a weir is constructed, which forms a grit chamber, where the pressure of the sewage as it enters, stirs up and washes the grit, leaving it behind clean, and consisting mostly of mineral matter, but no sludge. The outlet, which is also submerged, with the object of excluding the air, and presenting as little disturbance of the surface of the contents of the tank as possible, conducts the sewage, through a V gauge along a small open channel, for the purpose of æration, and thence through a valve opening on to one of the filter-beds, which are five in number, and are worked in pairs, so as to allow of a periodical rest being given to each in turn. The filters are composed of gravel, clinker, breeze, and gravel, from below upwards, are 5 ft. deep, and cover an area of 400 square yards, the filling and emptying of which are effected by a system of alternating gearing, working automatically.

"The final effluent is thence conveyed direct into the river.

"The purpose of the filter is to facilitate the work of those micro-organisms which produce oxidation, and thus complete the purification commenced by the putrefactive and liquefying ones in the tank.

"The system has proved itself to be efficient, and analyses of samples of the effluent, made at different times and by several competent analysts, shows that it satisfies the standard demanded by the Commissioners under the Rivers Pollution Act.

"The advantages of the system over others hitherto adopted would appear to be—

"(*First*) The absence of sludge which is always a difficult matter to deal with.

"(*Secondly*) Being a natural process, and automatic in its action, the annual cost of working and maintenance is next to nothing.

"(*Thirdly*) The space of ground required being only that which is sufficient for the erection of the works, renders any large acreage of ground unnecessary, which forms so large an item of expense in most other schemes.

"(*Fourthly*) Being conducted for the most part underground, and as regards the filters, out of sight, no nuisance arises, sentimental or otherwise; which enables the works to be constructed within close proximity to houses without proving injurious to the health of the inmates.

"Taking all these factors into consideration, I consider it an efficient method of treating sewage, and can recommend it to the Committee for adoption as regards provision for the treatment of the sewage of Limpsfield and Oxted."

This method having been approved of by the Committee, the further steps necessary to obtain the sanction of the Local Government Board for its application to these two localities, and the granting of a loan for the purpose of carrying out the work, are now being proceeded with.

NUISANCES.

Thirty-two nuisances have been abated by proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1875, in this locality during the past year.

LINGFIELD.

LINGFIELD.—Population, 3,315; Births, 78; Deaths, 40; giving rates per 1,000 of 23·52 for the former, and 12·06 for the latter.

NOTIFICATION ACT, 1889.

Twenty-one cases of notifiable disease were certified as occurring during the past year, viz., ten of Scarlatina, six of Diptheria,

three of Erysipelas, and one each of Enteric and Puerperal Fever.

Scarlatina, commonly called Scarlet Fever, was very prevalent amongst the inmates of the cottages near Haxted Mill, on the extreme Eastern boundary of the Parish, affecting the children who attended the Edenbridge Elementary Schools, where it was contracted. SCARLATINA.

There being no isolation hospital to which the first cases could be removed, the disease readily spread amongst other members of the different families, but not to any other part of the parish.

Six cases of Diptheria occurred, one of which was in a very much over-crowded house at Dorman's Land, and the remainder in the district where the disease was so very prevalent three years ago, which is low-lying, and much in need of an efficient system of drainage. DIPHTHERIA.

One case was that of a child attending a small private school situated in that district, which it was considered advisable to close for a time, more especially as several of the other children attending had been suffering from sore throats. Numerous sanitary defects were found to exist in connection with these cases, which have been remedied, and accumulation of house refuse which had been allowed, were ordered to be removed.

One case of Enteric Fever was certified as occurring at Puttenden Manor, that of a lady visiting there, where it was doubtless contracted, as the system of drainage was found to be very defective at many points, and the sewage gained access to the well from which the supply of water for drinking purposes was derived, and from which a sample, upon analysis, was found to be impure. ENTERIC FEVER.

Notices have been served to have these defects remedied.

This disease having been extensively prevalent amongst the children attending the Elementary School at Baldwin's Hill, it was deemed advisable to advise the authorites to close the same, which was done from January 16th to February 10th, upon the usual certificate being given. MUMPS.

Fifty-three nuisances have been abated by proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1875, in this locality during the past year NUISANCES.

OXTED.

OXTED.—Population, 1698; Births, 54; Deaths, 15; giving rates per 1,000 of 31·82 for the former and 8·83 for the latter.

NOTIFICATION ACT, 1889.

Nine cases of notifiable disease were certified as having occurred in this locality during the past year, viz., six of Scarlatina and three of Diphtheria, one of the latter terminating fatally.

SCARLATINA.

Four cases of Scarlatina occurred in one house at West Hill, in which there had been two cases previously at the end of last year; and one case—a domestic servant living in Station Road, who fell ill shortly after her return from a visit to her parents living in the East Grinstead district, to whose house she was at once removed on the nature of the illness being disclosed, but not before she had infected a fellow-servant in the house. This removal was effected entirely on the responsibility of her master, who was a tradesman, and formed the subject of a letter of censure from the East Grinstead Council on the impropriety of it. Your officers, however, had no power to prevent it, provided the removal was carried out with proper precautions against endangering the public health. These the Sanitary Inspector saw were duly observed, the patient being taken by road, and the vehicle thoroughly disinfected afterwards.

DIPHTHERIA.

Three cases of Diphtheria were certified as occurring in one family at New Holland, one of which terminated fatally.

An elder sister came home from service with a sore throat, but was not seen by any doctor. The house being small, having only two bedrooms for three adults and three children, was much overcrowded, with the result that another child contracted the throat illness, which developed into Diphtheria, and extended to two others in consequence of there being no means of effecting proper isolation of the first case. Such a sequence of events has been observed to take place under similar circumstances elsewhere, and it has been thought that a simple sore throat may develope into one indistinguishable from true Diphtheria if introduced amongst several children of susceptible age, living in a state of overcrowding and insufficient air-space, by what has been termed "progressive infection."

WHOOPING COUGH.

One case of Whooping Cough terminated fatally.

The houses to which allusion was made in last year's report as having been proceeded against under this Act, have been vacated, and are not now occupied, but no further steps with a view to their reconstruction have yet been taken by the owners.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890.

A representation was made to me by the Parish Council under Sec. 6, of the Local Government Act, 1894, with reference to the condition of three cottages at New Holland, as being unfit for habitation. After inspection, notices were served upon the owner under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, to have them put into a habitable condition, which has been done.

The work of Scavenging and removal of house refuse is still carried out by contract so far as regards Station Road, and with satisfaction; but the emptying of cesspools is undertaken by the owners, who are reminded of their duty when negligent by notice served under Sec. 91 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

SCAVENGING AND EMPTYING OF CESSPOOLS.

With reference to this latter, an enquiry was held on October 22nd, by Dr. Sweeting, an Inspector acting for the Local Government Board, as to whether an order should be issued under Sec. 42 of the Public Health Act, 1875, requiring the Council to undertake or contract for the work being done.

Evidence was given as to the method now in use, whereby the requisite tackle is provided by the Council at 1s. 6d. per hour; but the work of emptying done by the owners, under the supervision of a man also provided by the Council, with fewer complaints of a nuisance being created than when the whole work was done by contract.

An order, however, has since been issued requiring the Council to undertake the work pending the establishment of a suitable system of drainage.

The scheme of drainage proposed to be applied to Station Road under the auspices of the International Water and Sewage Purification Company, alluded to in the Report of last year as awaiting an enquiry, to be held by an Inspector of the Local Government Board, was deemed to be unsuitable.

DRAINAGE.

The enquiry was held on January 21st, and counsel were engaged on both sides who sifted the evidence produced for

and against the scheme, with the result that, after a short time for consideration, the Inspector reported that he advised the Local Government Board to withhold their sanction to a loan being obtained for carrying out the work.

That particular scheme has therefore been abandoned; but the matter is again under consideration by a Committee appointed by the Council and empowered to deal with it, in conjunction with a similar provision for Limpsfield to which allusion has already been made.

WATER SUPPLY.

I regret to have to report that the negotiations with the Limpsfield and Oxted Water Company, relative to a supply of water to Harlings Row Cottages, alluded to in the report of last year, have not been successful. The present supply is quite unfit for drinking and domestic purposes.

NUISANCES.

Thirty-seven nuisances have been abated in this locality by proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1875, during the past year.

TANDRIDGE.

TANDRIDGE.—Population, 611; Births, 14; Deaths, 4; giving rates per 1,000 of 22·91 for the former, and 6·54 for the latter.

NOTIFICATION ACT, 1889.

No cases of notifiable disease were reported as occurring in this locality during the past year.

DRAINAGE.

The scheme for draining a portion of the village by a sewer from the Post Office downward, to which allusion was made in the report of last year, has been carried out, and is working satisfactorily.

The sewage from 13 houses is thus being dealt with.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890.

Notices were served under this Act with reference to four cottages at Tillingdown, which were considered unfit for human habitation, and which have been closed in consequence.

NUISANCES.

Four nuisances have been abated in this locality by proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1875, during the past year.

TATSFIELD.—Population, 394; Births, 11; Deaths, 8; giving rates per 1,000 of 27·91 for the former, and 20·30 for the latter. TATSFIELD.

Four cases of notifiable disease were certified as occurring in this locality during the past year, viz., two of Scarlatina and one each of Diphtheria and Enteric Fever. NOTIFICATION ACT, 1889.

The two cases of Scarlatina were those of two sisters, one of whom had contracted the disease in London and infected her sister on coming home. SCARLATINA.

The case of Diphtheria was associated with the saturation of the subsoil beneath the kitchen floor of the house, by the contents of a privy adjoining the house being allowed to overflow for some long time. Notice was served to have it converted into an earth closet, which has been done. DIPHTHERIA.

The case of Enteric Fever was probably due to the supply of drinking water having become polluted, and which upon analysis was found to be impure and unfit for drinking and domestic purposes. ENTERIC FEVER.

This leads to the question of the present supply of water to the locality generally, which again proved deficient during the spring and summer months. I can only repeat the recommendation contained in my report of last year, for the erection of an "emergency tank," as there seems to be no inclination whatever to act upon the advice of either of the engineers who have been consulted. WATER SUPPLY.

The matter is of pressing urgency, and demands the earliest possible consideration of your Council, whom I would remind that during 1893 and 1895 there was practically a water famine, and no steps taken to avert a repetition, which occurred last year.

Proceedings were taken under this Act in the case of one house in the Goatsfield Road as being unfit for habitation. HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890.

Four nuisances have been abated in this locality during the past year by proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1875. NUISANCES.

TITSEY.

TITSEY.—Population, 236; Births, 4; Deaths, 1; giving rates per 1,000 of 16·94 for the former, and 4·23 for the latter.

NOTIFICATION ACT, 1889.

One case of notifiable disease was certified as occurring during the past year, viz., that of Diphtheria, which was contracted outside the district.

DIPHTHERIA.

The case was that of a boy who was employed in a shop at Brighton, and who returned home in consequence of feeling ill.

There had been several cases of throat illness amongst the other inmates of the house prior to his falling ill, which were probably of the same nature.

No further spread of the disease occurred.

NUISANCES.

Three nuisances have been abated in this locality by proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1875, during the past year.

WARLINGHAM.

WARLINGHAM.—Population, 1,616; Births, 56; Deaths, 14; giving rates per 1,000 of 34·65 for the former, and 8·68 for the latter.

NOTIFICATION ACT, 1889.

Five cases of notifiable disease were certified as occurring in this locality during the past year, viz., one of Scarlatina and two each of Diptheria and Enteric Fever.

SCARLATINA.

This case occurred in a young man who had visited an adjoining town a few days previous to falling ill, where the disease was know to be prevelant, and probably contracted it there.

DIPHTHERIA.

Two cases of Diphtheria were reported, one of which was associated with the escape of sewer gas from a catchpit into the living rooms over a stable, and the other was that of a gentleman in the habit of going daily to and fro to London, where he probably contracted the disease. In this latter instance the true nature of the disease was verified by a bacteriological examination of some secretions from the throat, which had been removed and forwarded to London for analysis.

ENTERIC FEVER.

The two cases of Enteric Fever appear to have contracted the disease outside the district, as in both instances they had been

absent from it a fortnight before falling ill, which is the usual period of incubation.

Nineteen nuisances have been abated by proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1875, in this locality during the past year. NUISANCES.

WOLDINGHAM.—Population, 158; Births, 3; Deaths, 4; giving rates per 1,000 of 12·65 for the former, and 25·31 for the latter. WOLDINGHAM.

No case of notifiable disease was reported as occurring in this locality during the past year. NOTIFICATION ACT, 1889.

Two nuisances have been abated by proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1875, in this locality, during the past year. NUISANCES.

Fifty-two samples of water have been taken and submitted to me for examination and analysis during the past year, and certificates given in accordance with the result obtained. WATER ANALYSIS.

Thirty-five notices have been served in consequence of the result, and thirty-six houses have been supplied with a wholesome supply in lieu of the existing one, which had been pronounced unfit for drinking and domestic purposes

Five notices have been served under this Act, and seven houses have been made fit for habitation throughout the district during the past year. HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890.

In view of the application of schemes of drainage to various localities in the district, it would be of great assistance in effecting the connections of houses with the sewers if the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, wese adopted, as regards Part III., which is applicable to a rural district. GENERAL SANITATION.

It also provides for the keeping of water closets supplied with sufficient water for flushing, which is a difficult matter to deal with otherwise, besides securing the proper height of rooms intended to be used for human habitation. I would recommend

therefore that the Act be adopted, so far as is applicable, to the district.

Appended are the reports of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, and in conclusion I would recall the principal matters requiring the early and serious consideration of your Council during the coming year, viz., the water supply of Tatsfield, and the provision of suitable schemes of drainage for Limpsfield, Oxted, Godstone, and Lingfield,

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES E. OLDMAN.
M.D., Cantab, &c..
Medical Officer of Health.

The Grange,
Blechingley,
December 31st, 1896.

SUMMARY OF THE REPORTS OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1896.

PARISH.	Inspections and re-inspections.	Preliminary Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Nuisances abated under the Public Health Act, 1875.										Public Health (water) Act, 1878.			Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.		
				Defective W.C.'s, S.E.C.'s, Privies, and Cesspools.	Defective Drains.	Houses cleansed.	Ashbins and Privies provided.	Overcrowding.	Offensive accumulations.	Offensive Ditches.	Nuisances from keeping animals.	Houses disinfected.	Total.	Samples of Water taken.	Notices.	Houses supplied.	Notices.	Houses made fit for habitation.	Houses closed.
*a*Blechingley ...	273	19	49	3	8	2	1	2	14	1		17	48	4					
*b*Caterham	441	63	10	12	43	4	38	6	4		4	7	118	1	1	1			
Chelsham	22	2	1		1				1				2						
Crowhurst	30	1		1	1					1			3	2	1	1	1	1	
Farleigh	3												0						
Godstone	147	14	3	15	7			1	3	2	4	5	37	14	12	13			
Horne	19	2	1	1	2					1			4	2					
Limpsfield	160	19	3	7	12	2			4	3	2	2	32	3					
Lingfield	227	28	8	19	13	2		3	6	1	1	8	53	19	21	21			
*c*Oxted	151	20	3	11	11	1	2		5	1	1	5	37				1	3	
*d*Tandridge	22	1		1	1				1			1	4	2			2	2	
Tatsfield	41	3		2			1		1				4	5			1	1	
Titsey	16	1		1								2	3						
Warlingham ...	111	7	2	7	6		1		3		1	1	19						
Woldingham ...	10	1	1	1				1					2						
Totals for District ...	1673	181	81	81	105	11	43	13	42	10	13	48	366	52	35	36	5	7	

a 134 houses connected with main sewer.

b Scavenging of house refuse by contract.

c Scavenging of house refuse in Station Road by contract.

d Sewer has been laid through village and 13 houses connected.

THE DAIRIES & COWSHEDS ORDER, 1885.

No. of Dairies and Cowsheds on Register	69
Added in 1896	6
Erased ,, ...	4
No. of Inspections	236

SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Plans of 213 new Buildings and alterations (including new Roads) in nine parishes in which Building Bye-laws are in operation. were approved by the Council as under:—

Blechingly	12
Caterham	46
Chelsham	3
Godstone	18
Limpsfield	9
Lingfield	45
Oxted	42
Tatsfield	13
Warlingham	25
	213

The corresponding number in 1895 was 181, 394 inspections of Buildings in course of erection have been made during the year.

(*Signed*) THOS. C. BARRALET,

Assoc. San. Inst.,

Surveyor.